



Heat over the heartland

Posted by [Heading Out](#) on August 2, 2006 - 10:53am

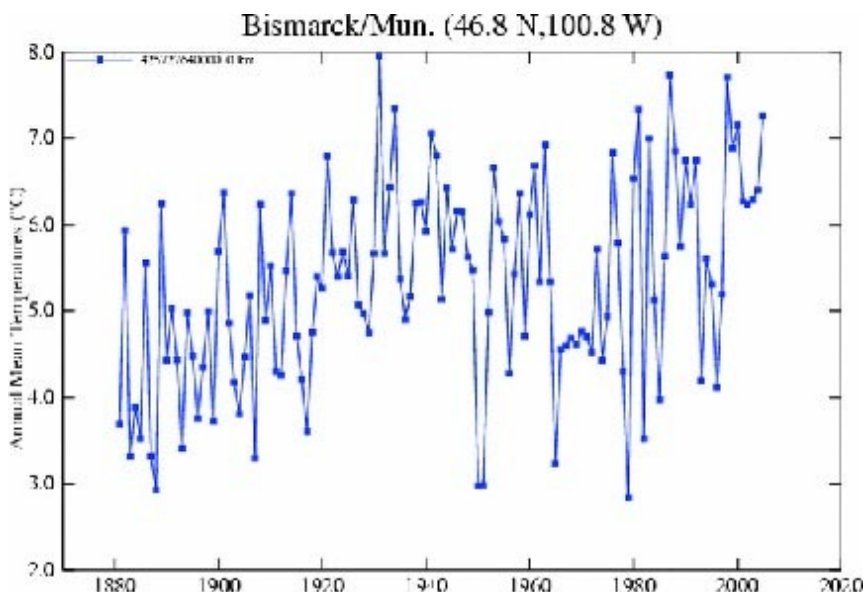
Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [biofuel](#), [california](#), [dust bowl](#), [mid-west](#), [new york](#), [temperatures](#) [[list all tags](#)]

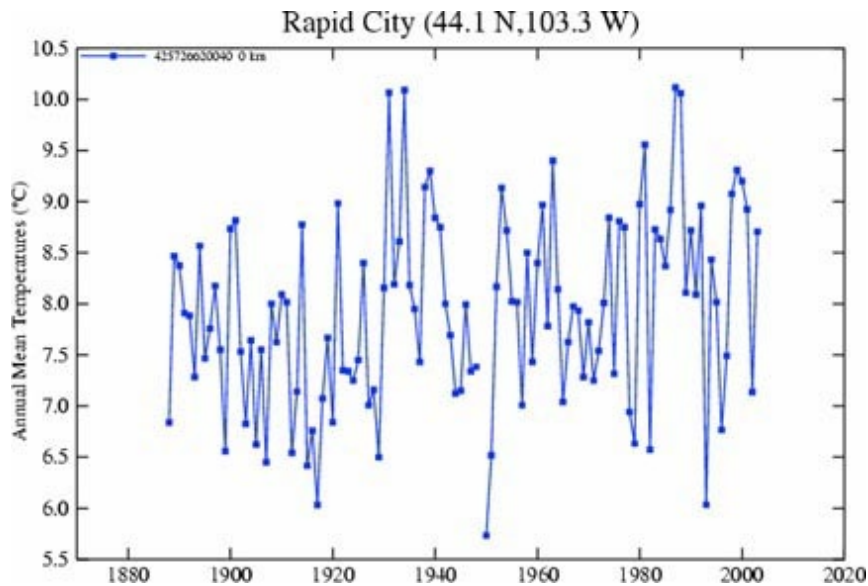
Grin - well I have been remarkable quiet and well behaved for perhaps a bit too long! And it may be that the heat is getting to me, since the heat wave that struck [California](#) last week is now hitting [the East Coast](#). Now in the process it is still passing the Great American Fly-over Zone, where all those ethanol producing corn crops are busily growing - or not, since many of the states are having a drought. But, as was pointed out in comments, this will have more effect next year, than this. However, my mischief button was pressed when I heard a reporter saying that it was hotter than it has been in the region since 1936, during the dust bowl days. So, being one of them curious folks, I went to take a look. If you have read my [earlier post](#) along these lines you might not want to look below the fold.

So what am I talking about ? Well the general consensus of opinion is that with Global Warming the world is steadily getting hotter, and this is all due to the increased levels of carbon dioxide. In my previous post I had posted the temperature record for a single city in about the center of the country, where it was warmer in the Dust Bowl days, than today, and the warming trend we are now seeing had only been going on since the mid-40's. And so I got my hand spanked, because "you can't generalize from a single point". So herewith the temperature records for places in the states in a strip from the Canadian border to the Mexican one. The name takes you to the record, and it's a government site - and we know that they wouldn't lie to you (grin). And this time I am not drawing any conclusions, just pointing out the facts, but also that there has been a lot of variation over the years.

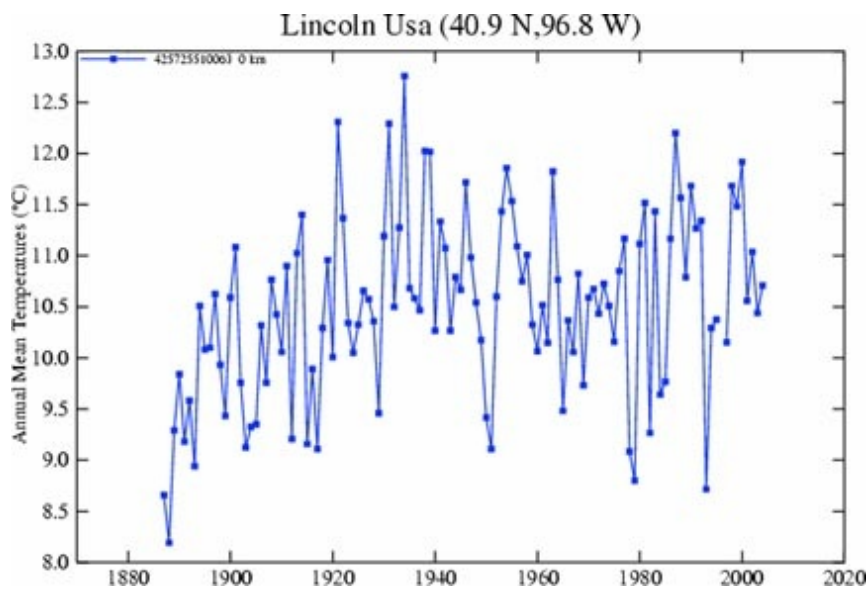
Let's start in North Dakota - how about [Bismarck, N.D.](#)



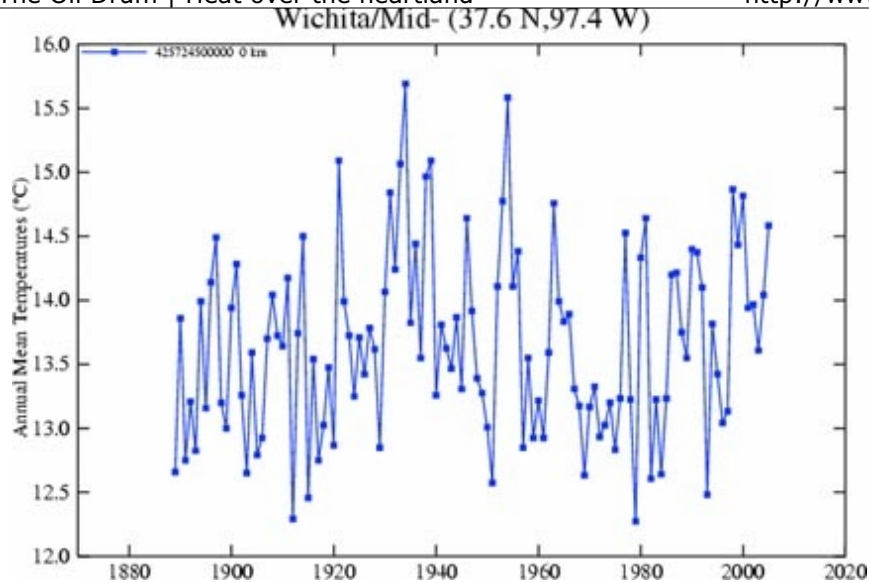
. Then we move to South Dakota, so how about [Rapid City](#)



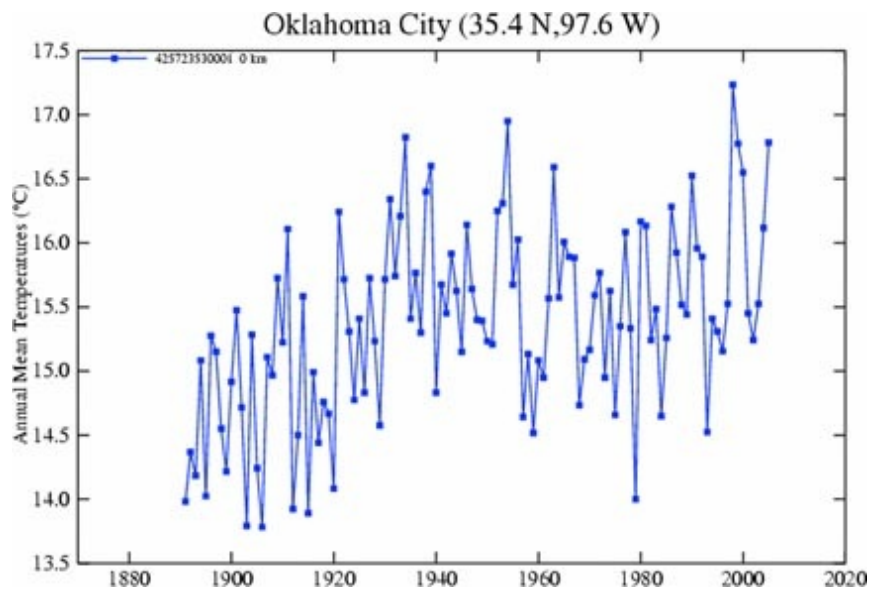
Then there is Nebraska - let's check [Lincoln](#)



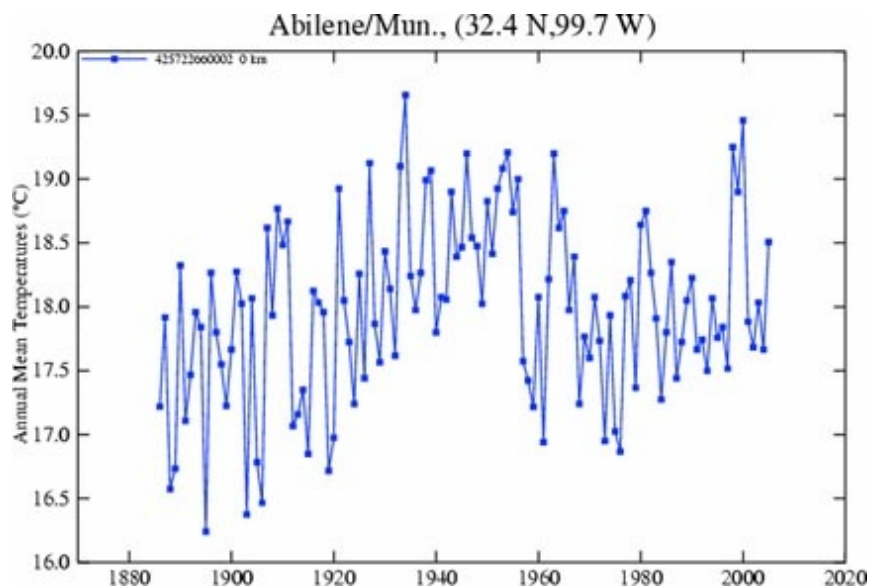
And so we come to Kansas, and [Wichita](#)



And still heading south we come to Oklahoma, let's pick [Oklahoma City](#)



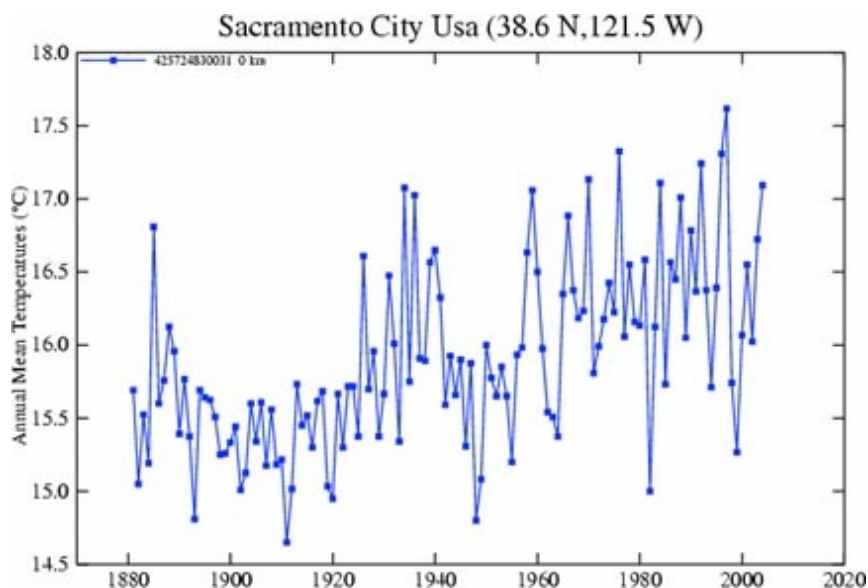
And so we come to Texas, and on to [Abilene](#)



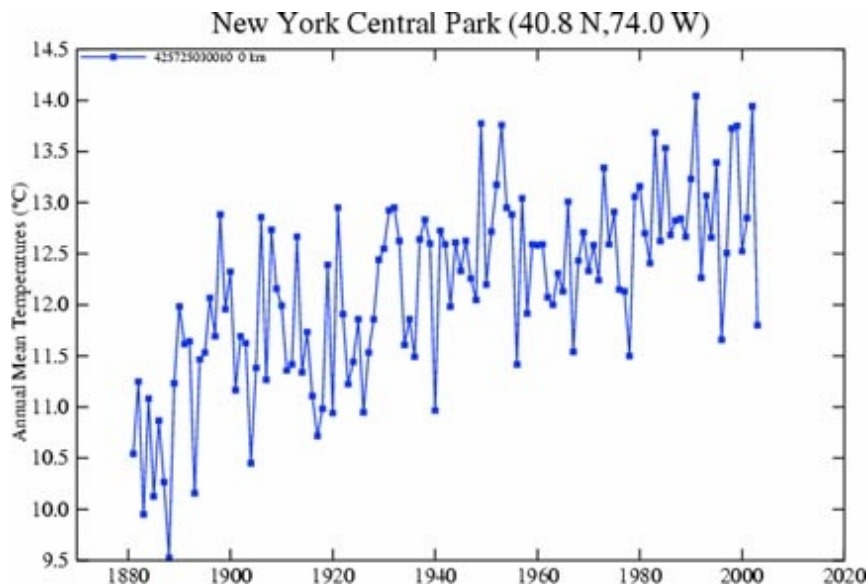
You know, it's a funny thing, but to me it looks as though in almost all these cases it was hotter during the Dust Bowl days than it is now, just as it was for the lone example that I used before.

I was talking to an acquaintance in Missouri the other day, and she was saying that the rain, what there was of it, was getting dirtier. Which is not a good sign. And if, in fact, we are going back towards those days in the 1930's, particularly in the Mid-West, then one has to wonder how successful the transition to a biofueled economy is going to be.

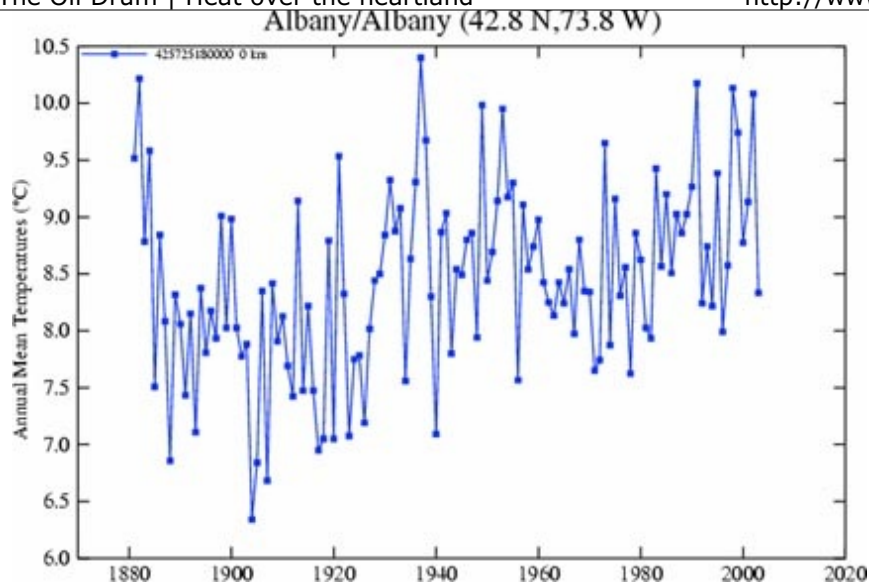
Grin, and in fairness I guess I should also add a couple of spots from the fringes - from the Great State of California we have [Sacramento](#)



And, for our Big Apple friends, where else but [Central Park](#)



Oddly the temperature change is not that consistent if one looks at [Albany](#)



But if I were to make a comment there, I might get my hand slapped again. So I give you this data for your comment.



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